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Office of Human Development Services

Special Project Grant Program—Projects of National Significance in Developmental Disabilities

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

Office of Human Development Services

[Program Announcement No. 13631-791]

Special Project Grant Program—Projects of National Significance in Developmental Disabilities

AGENCY: Office of Human Development Services, DHEW.

SUBJECT: Announcement of Availability of Grant funds for the Special Project Grant Program-Projects of National Significance in Developmental Disabilities.

SUMMARY: The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) announces that applications will be accepted for grants under the Special Project Grant Program-Projects of National Significance authorized by Title I, Section 145 of the Developmentally Disabled Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, Pub. L. 95-602, (42 U.S.C. 6001). Regulations governing the special Project Grant Program-Projects of National Significance in Developmental Disabilities are published in the code of Federal Regulations in 45 CFR Part 1385 and 1387, Subpart B.

DATE: Applications for grant must be received in OHDS by August 13, 1979.

Scope of This Program Announcement

This program announcement covers only projects of national significance authorized under the Special Project Grants Program of the Developmentally Disabled Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, Pub. L. 95-602. It does not include other grant programs administered by RSA. The purpose of this title is to assist States to assure that persons with developmental disabilities receive the care, treatment, and other services necessary to enable them to achieve their maximum potential through a system which coordinates, monitors, plans, and evaluates those services and which ensures the protection of the legal and human rights of persons with developmental disabilities.

Program Priorities: Goals and Objectives

The goal of the Special Project Grants Program, authorized under section 145(a) of the Act, is to demonstrate how to establish programs which will expand or improve services to developmentally disabled persons or which hold promise of expanding or otherwise improving the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Protection and Advocacy (P&A) Services related to the State Protection and Advocacy System. Applications for projects should indicate that the proposed projects will achieve only *one* of the following program objectives:

1. To obtain, review, evaluate, and disseminate to DD State Councils and others, information on exemplary services related to the priority services area, in Pub. L. 95-602, section 102, (8)(B), *child development services*, which means such services as will assist in the prevention, indentification, and alleviation of the developmental disabilities, in children, and includes (i) early intervention services, (ii) counseling and training of parents, (iii) early identification of developmental disabilities, and (iv) diagnosis and evaluation of such development disabilities.

2. To obtain, review, evaluate, and disseminate to DD State Councils and others, information on exemplary services related to the "priority service area", listed in the Act, *case management services*, which means such services to persons with developmental disabilities as will assist them in gaining access to needed social, medical, educational, and other services; and such term includes—

(i) Follow-along services which ensures, through a continuing relationship, lifelong if necessary, between an agency or provider and a person with a developmental disability and the person's immediate relatives or guardians, that the changing needs be appropriately met; and

(ii) Coordination services which provide to persons with developmental disabilities support, access to (and coordination of) other services, information on programs and services, and monitoring of the persons' progress.

3. To obtain, review, evaluate, and disseminate to DD State Councils and others, information on exemplary services related to the priority services area listed in the Act *alternative community living arrangement services* which means such services as will assist persons with developmental disabilities in maintaining suitable residential arrangements in the community, and includes in-house services (such as personal aides and attendants and other domestic assistance and supportive services), family support services, foster care services, group living services, respite care, and staff training, placement, and maintenance services, and *nonvocational social-developmental services* which means such services as will assist persons with developmental disabilities in performing daily living and work activities.

4. To demonstrate innovations in the delivery of services to isolated, homebound, and poor developmentally disabled persons in rural or rural remote areas of the country, and methods to attract and retain professionals to serve in these areas.

5. To develop a model manpower assessment tools and methodelogies necessary to assist DD State Councils to uniformly assemble data concerning their need for trained professionals and paraprofessionals in the field of developmental disabilities. The grantee will disseminate the model State DD Councils for their use in subsequent years.

6. To demonstrates innovative services for parents and families of developmentally disabled persons in such areas as stress reduction; peer support; and in accessing evaluating services.

7. To establish services demonstrations to outreach and serve developmentally disabled persons who are older adults and aged, and curriculum development for inservice training of the service providers.

8. To develop and demonstrate models of involvement of the general public in all aspects of DD state planning implementation, and evaluation activities. Special attention should be given to including representation of the economically deprived, cultural minorities, racial minorities, as well as other developmentally disabled consumers and their representatives not reflected on the DD state planning council.

9. To develop an interlocking network of State Protection and Advocacy agencies, the ten regional special project back-up legal centers and other consultants by utilizing existing conferencing, facsimile slow scan TV etc. This system is to be utilized to expedite consultative, instructional, data and other information flow between and among these agencies.

10. To develop a model training package and a system of delivering ongoing technical assistance to enable generic social service workers located in (State) Title XX and IV B social service agencies to understand the special needs of families with a developmental disabled child and assure the provision of the appropriate specialized services they require. The curriculum content for such training must be developed by the grantee.

11. To demonstrate cooperative panning and further implementation of existing alternative community living arrangement services and independent living levels that are of mutual concern

to individuals served under the Developmental Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Services Act. (i.e. Transportation, housing, financial, medical, peer counseling and independent living skills training).

Each application must address only one of the eleven major objectives listed above. Eligible agencies may apply on separate applications for as many activities as they feel competent to carry out.

Eligible Applicants

Applications may be made by public or private non-profit private agencies, organizations, and institutions.

Available Funds

Of the amount available for this program, the Rehabilitation Services Administration expects to award approximately $2 million in Fiscal Year 1979 for new grant awards under this announcement. It is expected that approximately 15 grants will be awarded and the amount of the grants will range from $50,000 to $250,000; the average award is expected to be $133,000. New projects may be supported for periods of one to three years. The funds provided in the initial grant will sustain the budget for the first twelve month period. Support for any additional time remaining in the project period is contingent upon the availability of funds and the grantee's satisfactry performance on the project for which the grant was awarded.

Grantee Share of Project

It is expected that grantees will provide at least ten (10) percent of the total project costs. The grantee share may be cash or in-kind and be project related and allowable under the Department's regulations under Subpart G and Q in 45 CFR, Part 74, (See 43 FR 34076, August 7, 1978).

The Application Process

Availability of Application Forms

Application kits which contain the prescribed application forms, project description, and related information may be otained by making a request to: Office of Human Development Services, DHEW, Division of Research/ Developmental Disabilities, Room 3428, Mary E. Switzer Building, 330 "C" Street, SW., Washington, D.C. 20201, Attention: 13.631.791, Telephone: 202-245-0516.

Please specify which project area(s) are contemplated, so that more detailed information may be forwarded with the application kit.

Application Submission

Completed applications should be submitted to the address provided above. The application must be signed by an individual authorized to act for the applicant agency and to assume the obligations imposed by the terms and conditions of the grant award. One signed original and two copies of the grant application, including all attachments, are required. In addition, for those grant activities planned to be carried out in any one State, one (1) copy of the application is to be submitted to the appropriate DD State Planning Council for concurrent review, comment, and assurance that the proposed activity is consistent with the goals and objectives of that State's Developmental Disability Plan. One (1) copy should also be submitted to the appropriate Regional Office of the Rehabilitation Services Administration Services for review and comment. Addresses of DHEW Regional Offices are included in the application kit.

Circular A-95 Notification Process Center

Projects of National Significance are not covered under the A-95 Clearinghouse requirements.

Application Considerations

The Commissioner determines the final action to be taken with respect to each grant application.

All applications received by the closing date which are complete and conform to the requirements of this program announcement will be accepted for review and consideration for an award. All accepted grant applications are subject to a competitive review and evaluation conducted by a panel of Federal and non-Federal experts in the specific areas being addressed or closely related program areas.

The Commission's decision takes into account recommendations resulting from the competitive review by the panel members, comments by the State Planning Council, RSA Regional Program Directors, as well as any other persons qualified to give advice.

The Commissioner makes grant awards consistent with the purposes of the Act, the regulations, and program announcements within the limits of Federal funds available. The official grant award document is the Notice of Grant Awarded which sets forth in writing the amount of funds granted, the purpose of the grant, the terms and conditions of the grant award, the effective date of the award, the budget period for which support is given and the total grantee participation. The initial award also specifies the project for which support is contemplated. After the Commissioner has reached a decision either to disapprove or not to fund a competing grant application, unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing of that decision.

Criteria for Review and Evaluation of Grant Applications

Competing grant applications will be reviewed and evaluated against the following criteria:

1. Quality of the application (20 points). The description of the purposes and objectives of the grant activities, the major tasks to be accomplished, and difficulties likely to be encountered are clearly stated and show that the applicant has a thorough understanding of the Developmental Disabilities program the project addresses. The extent to which the project is National in scope and/or subject to nationwide replicability should be clearly presented. Applications may deviate somewhat from the announcement if adequate justification and rationale for the differences are presented.

2. Technical approach and methodology (30 points). The proposed procedures and methodology for the project should be of high quality and technically sound. The methodology should be consistent with the applicant's stated purposes and objectives and show how the anticipated results of the project will be clearly and systematically achieved. Timetables for completion of the project should be definitive and realistic. Applications should also include a discussion of how the procedures and results of the project will be evaluated.

3. Applicant qualifications (30 points). Qualifications and professional experience of staff should be appropriate and adequate to fulfill their purposed roles and functions. The facilities and resources available to the project should be adequate for fulfilling the objectives of the project. Applications should be accompanied by letters of support from agencies and organizations whose interests and/or responsibilities are relevant to the purposes of the proposed project.

4. Relevance of project objectives to program goals (10 points). The objectives of the project should be clearly delineated. The discussion of the objectives should articulate the relevance of the project objectives to the objectives of the special project grant program-projects of national significance, and how the results of the

proposed project will contribute to the achievement of those objectives.

5. Budget (10 points). The proposed budget should be realistic, reasonable, and justifiable in terms of the project activities. If project costs are not within the range described in the program announcement, sufficient explanation should be provided to justify the discrepancies. Applications should include discussions of the feasibility and propriety of continuing the project after Federal funding ends, and plans for securing financial support, if appropriate.

Clsoing Date for Receipt of Applications

Applications are due by close of business on August 13, 1979.

Applications will be judged on time if:

a. The application was sent by mail not later than the date specified above as evidenced by the U.S. Postal Service postmark or the original receipt from the U.S. Postal Service, or

b. The application is hand delivered to the office designated for the submission of the application. Hand delivered applications will be accepted no later than the close of business on the date specified above.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number: 13.631 Developmental Disabilities—Special Projects)

Dated: July 12, 1979.

Robert Humphreys,

Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services.

Approved: July 12, 1979.

Arabella Martinez,

Assistant Secretary for Human Development Services.

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